

REMARKS

Section A lists the status of the claims in the application. Section B discusses the claim rejections under 35 USC 102. Section C discusses the claim rejections under 35 USC 103.

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-36 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 9, 12-20, and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al., US Patent No. 4,968,255. Claims 7-8, 10-11, 21-22, and 24-25 were rejected under 35 USC 103(b) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. Claims 26-36 are withdrawn from consideration.

B. 35 USC 102(b) Rejections: Claims 1-6, 9, 12-20, and 23

Claims 1-6, 9, 12-20, and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite an apparatus comprising: a first base; a first module; and a plurality of modules, the first module and each of the plurality of modules having an identity, said base, and first module, and plurality of modules comprising circuitry wherein: when the first module is directly attached to the first base, and an arbitrary number of the plurality of modules is indirectly attached to the first base through the first module, the circuitry determines an order and the identities of all attached modules.

Claim 19 has been amended to recite an apparatus comprising: a first base; a plurality of modules, each having an identity and being directly attachable to the first base or other modules; and circuitry, wherein the circuitry determines an order and the identities of all contiguously attached modules when a first module of the plurality of

modules is attached to the first base, and at least a second module is attached directly to the first module.

Lee et al. nowhere teach or suggest a first module directly attached to a base, and additional modules indirectly attached to the base through the first module. Similarly, Lee et al. nowhere teach or suggest a first module directly attached to a base, and a second module directly attached to the first module. Thus claims 1 and 19, and all of their dependent claims, distinguish over the teachings of Lee et al.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

C. 35 USC 103(b) Rejections: Claims 7-8, 10-11, 21-22, and 24-25

Claims 7-8, 10-11, 21-22, and 24-25 were rejected under 35 USC 103(b) as being unpatentable over Lee et al.

Claims 7-8 and 10-11 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1. Claims 21-22 and 24-25 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 19. Section B explains that independent claims 1 and 19 distinguish over Lee et al.; thus Lee et al. cannot teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 7-8, 10-11, 21-22, and 24-25.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

CONCLUSION

In view of the preceding Remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. If objections remain, Applicants **respectfully request an interview**. In the event that objections remain, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned agent at (408) 869-2921.

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Date

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